

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OPORTO 00002 021740Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 DHA-02

IO-10 /072 W

----- 091469

R 021657Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 771

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO, MILI

SUBJECT: CUSTOIAS PRISON ASSAULT AFTERMATH

REF: A) OPORTO 001, B) LISBON 0008

1. WEST GERMAN CONSUL CONFIRMED THE DEATH OF WEST GERMAN NATIONAL GUNTHER BRUNS, BORN 18 AUGUST 1953, IN HAMBURG, DURING ATTEMPTED ASSAULT JAN 1, AT CUSTOIAS PRISON. ACCORDING TO LOCAL POLICE SOURCE, BRUNS WAS APPARENTLY UNARMED BUT HAD NOTEBOOK IN HIS POSSESSION CONTAINING LIST OF LEFTIST RADICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NAMES OF LEADERS. POLICE CONJECTURE THAT BRUNS CAME FROM LISBON TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMONSTRATION AT CUSTOIAS.

2. IT ALSO APPEARS LIKELY THAT EX-MINISTER METELO'S FAMILY, INCLUDING WIDOWED MOTHER AND DAUGHTER WHO WERE INJURED, HAD ALSO GONE TO CUSTOIAS SOLELY FOR DEMONSTRATION. METELO WAS TRANSFERRED FROM CUSTOIAS A SHORT TIME AGO TO OPORTO ARTILLERY REGIMENT HEADQUARTERS (RASP) AND WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE VISITORS.

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3. LEFTIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST NATIONAL GUARD (GNR) HAS GOTTEN

UNDERWAY WITH A BANG. ACCORDING TO RADIO REPORTS, BOMBS WERE
THROWN AT GNR HEADQUARTERS IN OPORTO AND BRAGA BEFORE
DAWN JAN 2. NO INJURIES REPORTED.

4. COMMENT. FIRST REACTION TO CUSTOIAS INCIDENT BY SEVERAL
CONSERVATIVE NORTHERN SOURCES IS THAT
"COMMUNISTS GOT WHAT THEY "DESERVE". IN
RETROSPECT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT CROWD ACTED SPONTANEOUSLY IN TRY-
ING TO FORCE ITS WAY INTO PRISON. FACT, HOWEVER, THAT SEVERAL IN
CROWD HAD BROUGHT PISTOLS WHICH LOCAL POLICE CONFIRM, SUGGESTS
THAT SOMEONE WAS LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.
PENNER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Remarks:
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